

REMARKS

Status of the claims

Claims 1-35 are pending and subject to restriction. Claims 1-17 are elected provisionally. Claims 1 and 16 are amended. Claims 18-30 are withdrawn with traverse. Claims 31-35 are withdrawn. No new matter is added in the claim amendments.

Claim amendments and traverse of the restriction requirement

Applicants submit that the primary inventive concept of the instant invention is reducing the electrostatic charge on a substrate during PECVD of a film onto the substrate by dissipating the electrostatic charge via the conductive layer and not a method of making a susceptor. Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 16 of Group I to recite the dissipation of the electrostatic charge via the conductive layer as an active method step.

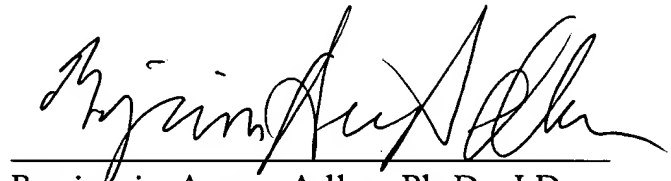
As amended, Group I claims only differ from Group II claims by the actual film deposition steps. The steps of positioning the substrate onto the conductive susceptor and depositing the film upon the substrate via PECVD, recited in independent claims 18 and 29 of Group II, are inherent in a method of reducing the electrostatic charge

upon a substrate during a PECVD process recited in Group I, i.e., the electrostatic charge would not accrue without deposition occurring. Thus, no undue burden would be created for the Examiner to search both Group I, claims 1-17 and Group II, claims 18-30. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that Group II, claims 18-30, be rejoined with Group I, claims 1-17.

Applicants believe no fees are due, however, should this be in error, please debit any applicable fees from Deposit Account No. 07-1185 upon which the undersigned is allowed to draw.

Respectfully submitted,

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